AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) Belt (1) for use in a continuously variable transmission, ~~in particular for automotive application,~~ comprising:

at least one set (7) of nested metal rings (2),

the set (7) interacting with transverse elements (3, 6) provided slidably along the set (7), and

the rings (2) of the set (7) being accommodated with small mutual play between each pair of adjacent rings (2), wherein,

~~characterised in, that~~

for at least the majority of said pairs of adjacent rings (2) the nominal value of said play is zero, whereby said nominal value of zero is realised by positive and negative amounts of play between said pairs of adjacent rings (2).

16. (previously presented) Belt (1) according to claim 15, characterised in, that the nominal value of zero is realised by a tolerance of 0.00005 times the outer diameter of the inner ring (2) of a relevant pair of rings (2), plus or minus of said

diameter.

17. (currently amended) Belt (1) according to claim [[1]] 15, characterised in, that said mutual play between the innermost pair of adjacent rings (2) is of negative value.

18. (previously presented) Belt (1) according to claim 17, characterised in, that the outer diameter of the innermost ring (2) is of a value (1-Z) times the inner diameter of the adjacent ring, Z being of a value smaller than 0.0008.

19. (previously presented) Belt (1) according to claim 18, characterised in, that Z is of a value greater than 0.0001.

20. (previously presented) Belt (1) according to claim 15, characterised in, that the mutual play of the outermost pair of adjacent rings (2) is of positive value.

21. (previously presented) Belt (1) according to claim 20, characterised in, that the inner diameter of the outermost ring (2) is of a value (1+Y) times the outer diameter of the adjacent ring, Y being of a value smaller than 0.0004.

22. (previously presented) Belt (1) according to claim 21, characterised in, that Y is of a value greater than 0.00005.

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) Belt (1), in particular according to claim 15, for use in a continuously variable transmission, ~~in particular for automotive application,~~ comprising at least one set (7) of nested metal rings (2), the set (7)

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interacting with transverse elements (3, 6) provided slidably along the set (7), and the rings (2) of the set (7) being accommodated with small mutual play between each pair of adjacent rings (2), characterised in, that the thickness of one or both of the innermost and the outermost ring (2) of the set (7) is significantly less than the nominal thickness of in-between rings (2) of the set (7).

25. (previously presented) Belt (1) according to claim 24, characterised in, that the thickness of said innermost or said outermost ring (2) is at least lower than twenty percent (20%) of the average value of the thickness of the in-between rings (2).

26. (currently amended) Belt (1), in particular according to claim 15, for use in a continuously variable transmission, ~~in particular for automotive application,~~ comprising at least one set (7) of nested metal rings (2), the set (7) interacting with transverse elements (3, 6) provided slidably along the set (7), and the rings (2) of the set (7) being accommodated with small mutual play between each pair of adjacent rings (2), characterised in, that the material composition of at least one of the innermost and the outermost ring (2) of the set (7) significantly differs from that of the in-between rings (2) of the set (7), such that the elasticity modulus thereof is significantly lower than that of in-between positioned rings (2).

27. (previously presented) Belt (1) according to

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claim 26, characterised in, that the elasticity modulus of said innermost and said outermost ring (2) is at least twenty percent (20%) less than the average value of the elasticity moduluses of the in-between rings (2).

28. (previously presented) Continuously variable transmission provided with a belt (1) according to claim 15.

29. (new) Continuously variable transmission belt, comprising:

a set of nested metal rings; and

transverse elements provided slidably along the set of nested metal rings,

the set of nested metal rings interacting with the transverse elements,

small mutual play provided between each pair of adjacent rings,

for at least the majority of said pairs of adjacent rings the nominal value of said play is zero,

said nominal value of zero being realised by positive and negative amounts of play between said pairs of adjacent rings by a tolerance of 0.00005 times the outer diameter of an inner ring of a relevant pair of rings, plus or minus of said diameter.

30. (new) Belt according to claim 29, wherein, said mutual play between the innermost pair of adjacent rings is of a negative value.

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31. (new) Continuously variable transmission belt, comprising:

a set of nested metal rings; and

transverse elements provided slidably along the set of nested metal rings,

the set of nested metal rings interacting with the transverse elements,

small mutual play provided between each pair of adjacent rings,

for at least the majority of said pairs of adjacent rings the nominal value of said play is zero,

said nominal value of zero being realised by positive and negative amounts of play between said pairs of adjacent rings,

said mutual play between an innermost pair of adjacent rings is of a negative value, and

the outer diameter of an innermost ring is of a value $(1-Z)$ times an inner diameter of the adjacent ring, Z being of a value smaller than 0.0008.

32. (new) Belt according to claim 31, wherein, Z is of a value greater than 0.0001.

33. (new) Belt (1) according to claim 15, wherein the inner diameter of the outermost ring (2) is of a value $(1+Y)$ times the outer diameter of the adjacent ring, Y being of a value smaller than 0.0004.

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34. (new) Belt (1) according to claim 33, characterised in, that Y is of a value greater than 0.00005.

35. (new) Belt (1) according to claim 15, wherein the amount of said mutual play between each pair of adjacent rings is equal to the diameter of the radially inwardly oriented surface of the radially outermost ring of the two adjacent nested rings, when in a circular configuration, minus the diameter of the radially outwardly oriented surface of the radially innermost ring of two adjacent nested rings, when in the circular configuration.